a gas source delivering a continuous flow of air/oxygen at a rate of approximately 4 to 40 liters per minute through the delivery tube and nasal catheter into the patient's distal nasopharynx or oropharynx.

C1

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (thrice amended) A nasopharyngeal catheter for open delivery of a continuous flow of air/oxygen into a patient's distal nasopharynx or oropharynx to supplement a patient's spontaneous respiration in treatment of respiratory failure, respiratory insufficiency, or sleep apnea syndrome, said nasopharyngeal catheter comprising:

a nasal catheter having a proximal end and a distal end adapted to extend through a patient's nose and into the patient's distal nasopharynx or oropharynx without obstructing the patient's spontaneous respiration, said catheter being made of a flexible material that can be trimmed to a desired length;

C2

a delivery tube adapted to extend below the patient's nostril having a connector for removable attachment to the proximal end of the nasal catheter; and

a gas source delivering a continuous flow rate of approximately 4 to 40 liters per minute through the delivery tube and nasal catheter into the patient's distal nasopharynx or oropharynx.

Please amend claim 23 as follows:

23. (twice amended) An open delivery method for providing a supplemental continuous flow of air/oxygen to a spontaneously breathing patient in treatment of respiratory failure, respiratory insufficiency, or sleep apnea syndrome, the method comprising:

advancing a nasopharyngeal catheter through a patient's nostril until the distal tip of the catheter is located in the patient's distal nasopharynx or oropharynx without obstructing the patient's spontaneous respiration; and

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supplying air/oxygen through the catheter at a continuous flow rate of approximately 4 to 40 liters per minute into the patient's distal nasopharynx or oropharynx.